1 E. MARTIN ESTRADA United States Attorney 2 MACK E. JENKINS Assistant United States Attorney 3 Chief, Criminal Division FRANCES S. LEWIS (Cal. Bar No. 291055) Assistant United States Attorney 4 Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section 5 SURIA M. BAHADUE (Cal. Bar No. 344369) Assistant United States Attorney 6 Criminal Appeals Section 1500/1000 United States Courthouse 7 312 North Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012 8 Telephone: (213) 894-5840/5487 (213) 894-0141 Facsimile: 9 E-mail: frances.lewis@usdoj.gov suria.bahadue@usdoj.gov 10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 11 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, No. CR 22-00177-ODW 13 Plaintiff,

FILED CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT 10/26/23 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SE

PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT STEVE LEE DOMINGUEZ

STEVE LEE DOMINGUEZ,

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Defendant.

V.

This constitutes the plea agreement between STEVEN LEE DOMINGUEZ ("defendant") and the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California (the "USAO") in the abovecaptioned case. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any other federal, state, local, or foreign prosecuting, enforcement, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

RULE 11(c)(1)(C) AGREEMENT

2. Defendant understands that this agreement is entered into pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C). Accordingly, defendant understands that, if the Court determines that it will not accept this agreement, absent a breach of this agreement

by defendant prior to that determination and whether or not defendant elects to withdraw any guilty plea entered pursuant to this agreement, this agreement will, with the exception of paragraph 22 below, be rendered null and void and both defendant and the USAO will be relieved of their obligations under this agreement. Defendant agrees, however, that if defendant breaches this agreement prior to the Court's determination whether or not to accept this agreement, the breach provisions of this agreement, paragraphs 25 and 26 below, will control, with the result that defendant will not be able to withdraw any guilty plea entered pursuant to this agreement, the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement, and the Court's failure to follow any recommendation or request regarding sentence set forth in this agreement will not provide a basis for defendant to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

3. Defendant agrees to:

- a. At the earliest opportunity requested by the USAO and provided by the Court, appear and plead guilty to count one of the indictment in <u>United States v. Steven Lee Dominguez</u>, CR No. 22-00177-ODW, which charges defendant with bias-motivated interference with federally protected activities in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 245(b)(2)(B).
- b. Not contest the Factual Basis agreed to in this agreement.
- c. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement and affirmatively recommend to the Court that it impose sentence in accordance with paragraph 16 of this agreement.

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- d. Appear for all court appearances, surrender as ordered for service of sentence, obey all conditions of any bond, and obey any other ongoing court order in this matter.
- Not commit any crime; however, offenses that would be excluded for sentencing purposes under United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") § 4A1.2(c) are not within the scope of this agreement.
- f. Be truthful at all times with the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court.
- Pay the applicable special assessment at or before the q. time of sentencing unless defendant has demonstrated a lack of ability to pay such assessments.
- h. Defendant agrees that any and all criminal debt ordered by the Court will be due in full and immediately. government is not precluded from pursuing, in excess of any payment schedule set by the Court, any and all available remedies by which to satisfy defendant's payment of the full financial obligation, including referral to the Treasury Offset Program.
- Complete the Financial Disclosure Statement on a form provided by the USAO and, within 30 days of defendant's entry of a guilty plea, deliver the signed and dated statement, along with all of the documents requested therein, to the USAO by either email at usacac.FinLit@usdoj.gov (preferred) or mail to the USAO Financial Litigation Section at 300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 7516, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Defendant agrees that defendant's ability to pay criminal debt shall be assessed based on the completed Financial Disclosure Statement and all required supporting documents, as well as other relevant information relating to ability to pay.

- j. Authorize the USAO to obtain a credit report upon returning a signed copy of this plea agreement.
 - k. Consent to the USAO inspecting and copying all of defendant's financial documents and financial information held by the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office
 - 1. Agree to and not oppose, as a condition of probation or supervised release, the imposition of the condition that defendant participate in anti-hate or anti-bias treatment program(s) as approved and directed by the Probation Office.

THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

4. The USAO agrees to:

- a. Not contest the Factual Basis agreed to in this agreement.
- b. Abide by all agreements regarding sentencing contained in this agreement and affirmatively recommend to the Court that it impose sentence in accordance with paragraph 16 of this agreement.
- c. At the time of sentencing, move to dismiss the remaining count of the indictment as against defendant. Defendant agrees, however, that at the time of sentencing the Court may consider any dismissed charges in determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, the propriety and extent of any departure from that range, and the sentence to be imposed.

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

5. Defendant understands that for defendant to be guilty of the crime charged in count one, that is, bias-motivated interference with federally protected activities, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 245(b)(2)(B), the following must be true: first, defendant used force or threat of force; second, defendant willfully intimidated or

interfered with a person, or attempted to do so; third, defendant acted because of that person's race, color, religion, or national origin; and fourth, defendant acted because that person was participating or enjoying a benefit, service, privilege, program, facility, or activity provided or administered by a State or its subdivision.

6. Defendant understands that for defendant to be subject to the heightened statutory maximum sentence set forth below, the government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that defendant's use of force or threat of force involved the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, as alleged in count one of the indictment. Defendant admits that defendant, in fact, used a dangerous weapon in the commission of the offense, namely, his car, as described in count one of the indictment.

PENALTIES AND RESTITUTION

- 7. Defendant understands that the statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for a violation of 18 U.S.C. \$ 245(b)(2)(B), is: 10 years' imprisonment; a three-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
- 8. Defendant agrees to make full restitution to the victim(s) of the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant agrees that, in return for the USAO's compliance with its obligations under this agreement, the Court may order restitution to persons other than the victim(s) of the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty and in amounts greater than those alleged in the count to which defendant is pleading guilty. In particular,

defendant agrees that the Court may order restitution to any victim of any of the following for any losses suffered by that victim as a result: (a) any relevant conduct, as defined in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, in connection with the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty; and (b) any count dismissed pursuant to this agreement as well as all relevant conduct, as defined in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, in connection with that count.

- 9. Defendant understands that supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release authorized by statute for the offense that resulted in the term of supervised release, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.
- 10. Defendant understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to serve on a jury.

 Defendant understands that he is pleading guilty to a felony and that it is a federal crime for a convicted felon to possess a firearm or ammunition. Defendant understands that the conviction in this case may also subject defendant to various other collateral consequences, including but not limited to revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case and suspension or revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated

collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

11. Defendant understands that, if defendant is not a United States citizen, the felony conviction in this case may subject defendant to: removal, also known as deportation, which may, under some circumstances, be mandatory; denial of citizenship; and denial of admission to the United States in the future. The Court cannot, and defendant's attorney also may not be able to, advise defendant fully regarding the immigration consequences of the felony conviction in this case. Defendant understands that unexpected immigration consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

FACTUAL BASIS

12. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offense to which defendant is agreeing to plead guilty. Defendant and the USAO agree to the statement of facts provided below and agree that this statement of facts is sufficient to support a plea of guilty to the charge described in this agreement and to establish the Sentencing Guidelines factors set forth in paragraph 14 below but is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to either party that relate to that conduct.

On March 21, 2021, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, defendant willfully, by force and threat of force, including the use, attempted use, and threatened use of a dangerous weapon (his car), intimidated and interfered with individuals because of their actual and perceived race, color, and national origin and because they were enjoying facilities (a public

sidewalk and crosswalk) provided and administered by the State of California and a subdivision thereof.

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Specifically, on that day, community members organized a "Stop Asian Hate" rally in Diamond Bar, California, to speak out against and bring awareness to the increase in hate crimes and hate incidents against members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander ("AAPI") community in California and throughout the country. A group of rally participants assembled at the intersection of Diamond Bar Boulevard and Grand Avenue (the "intersection") with visible American flags and large signs supporting their cause. They engaged in lawful speech and assembly to oppose racially-motivated violence and harassment that denied members of the AAPI community the right to enjoy public streets and sidewalks, public parks, restaurants, retail stores, public schools, and transportation without discrimination on account of race, color, or national origin. During the rally, the participants were peacefully and lawfully assembled on the public sidewalks and used the marked crosswalks when they had the legal right of way.

Among the rally participants were: (1) victim V.C., an adult Asian female carrying a sign that read "STOP ASIAN HATE;" (2) victim B.W., an adult Asian male; (3) victim S.P., an adult Asian male; (4) victim B.H., an adult Asian female carrying a sign that read "STOP ASIAN HATE;" (5) victim Z.C., an adult Asian male; and (6) victim C.H., a minor African-American female carrying a sign that read "END THE VIOLENCE AGAINST ASIANS" (collectively, the "Victims").

Defendant drove to the "Stop Asian Hate" rally in his car, a black Honda four-door sedan. When he approached the intersection at the center of the rally, he stopped and yelled "Go back to China!"

and "fuck China!" to the rally participants, including the Victims. Defendant then deliberately ran a red light and drove his car, which was at all times a dangerous weapon, through the crosswalk of the intersection. He made an illegal U-turn and cut off the route of several rally participants who were lawfully crossing the street in the crosswalk. The Victims, other adults, and a nine-year-old child had to quickly move to avoid being hit by defendant's car. Defendant then got out of his car and continued to yell racial epithets and threatening language at the rally participants, including "come on you fucking Niggers," "you Jap motherfucker," "Fuck you, you Gook!" and "Fuck you, I'll be back," among others.

Afterward, defendant called 911 and falsely claimed to police that the Victims were threatening him and his car and were otherwise behaving unlawfully. In fact, the Victims were behaving lawfully, and defendant contacted the police in hopes that the police would arrive to the scene and further disrupt the demonstration.

Defendant targeted this rally and the rally participants, including the Victims, because of their actual and perceived race, color, and national origin. He also acted because the Victims and other rally participants were using the public sidewalks and crosswalks for their rally and he wanted them to stop. Defendant used his car to intimidate and interfere with the Victims' lawful activities because they had been exercising their right to free speech and peaceful assembly on a topic with which he disagreed, hamely, the need for racial justice for AAPI members and opposing the denial of the opportunity for AAPI members to participate in federally protected activities without discrimination on account of race, color, or national origin. By running a red light, making his



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illegal U-turn, and driving through the crosswalk, defendant intimidated the rally participants, including the Victims, and interfered with their free speech and peaceful assembly.

SENTENCING FACTORS

- 13. Defendant understands that in determining defendant's sentence the Court is required to calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the other sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only.
- 14. Defendant and the USAO agree to the following applicable Sentencing Guidelines factors:

Base Offense Level: 10 U.S.S.G. § 2H1.1(a)(3)
Hate Crime Motivation: +3 U.S.S.G. § 3A1.1(a)

- 15. The parties agree not to argue that any other specific offense characteristics, adjustments, or departures be imposed.
- 16. Defendant and the USAO agree that, taking into account the factors listed in 18 U.S.C. §§ 3553(a)(1)-(7) and the relevant Sentencing Guideline factors set forth above, an appropriate disposition of this case is that the Court impose a sentence of either probation or a term of imprisonment of no greater than 12 months. The government agrees to recommend a sentence of probation. There is no agreement between the parties as to the length of any term of probation the government will recommend or the terms of any probationary sentence imposed. The parties agree that no prior imprisonment (other than credits that the Bureau of Prisons may allow under 18 U.S.C. § 3585(b)) may be credited against this stipulated sentence, including credit under Sentencing Guideline § 5G1.3. There

is no agreement between the parties as to an amount for restitution, if any.

WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- 17. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, defendant gives up the following rights:
 - a. The right to persist in a plea of not guilty.
 - b. The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.
- c. The right to be represented by counsel -- and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel -- at trial. Defendant understands, however, that, defendant retains the right to be represented by counsel -- and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel -- at every other stage of the proceeding.
- d. The right to be presumed innocent and to have the burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
- e. The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against defendant.
- f. The right to testify and to present evidence in opposition to the charges, including the right to compel the attendance of witnesses to testify.
- g. The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against defendant.
- h. Any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could be filed.

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WAIVER OF APPEAL OF CONVICTION

18. Defendant understands that, with the exception of an appeal based on a claim that defendant's guilty plea was involuntary, by pleading guilty defendant is waiving and giving up any right to appeal defendant's conviction on the offense to which defendant is pleading guilty. Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but is not limited to, arguments that the statute to which defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and any and all claims that the statement of facts provided herein is insufficient to support defendant's plea of guilty.

LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL OF SENTENCE AND COLLATERAL ATTACK

19. Defendant agrees that, provided the Court imposes a sentence of probation or a total term of imprisonment on the count of conviction of no greater than 12 months, defendant gives up the right to appeal all of the following: (a) the procedures and calculations used to determine and impose any portion of the sentence; (b) the term of imprisonment imposed by the Court; (c) the fine imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (d) to the extent permitted by law, the constitutionality or legality of defendant's sentence, provided it is within the statutory maximum; (e) the amount and terms of any restitution order; (f) the term of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court, provided it is within the statutory maximum; and (g) any of the following conditions of probation or supervised release imposed by the Court: the conditions set forth in Second Amended General Order 20-04 of this Court; the drug testing conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); the alcohol and drug use conditions

authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7); and any conditions of probation or supervised release agreed to by defendant in paragraph 3 above.

- 20. The USAO agrees that, provided (a) all portions of the sentence are at or below the statutory maximum specified above and (b) the Court imposes a term of probation or a total term of imprisonment on the count of conviction of no greater than 12 months, the USAO gives up its right to appeal any portion of the sentence, with the exception that the USAO reserves the right to appeal the amount of restitution ordered.
- 21. Defendant also gives up any right to bring a postconviction collateral attack on the conviction or sentence, including
 any order of restitution, except a post-conviction collateral attack
 based on a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, a claim of
 newly discovered evidence, or an explicitly retroactive change in the
 applicable Sentencing Guidelines, sentencing statutes, or statutes of
 conviction. Defendant understands that this waiver includes, but is
 not limited to, arguments that the statute to which defendant is
 pleading guilty is unconstitutional, and any and all claims that the
 statement of facts provided herein is insufficient to support
 defendant's plea of guilty.

RESULT OF WITHDRAWAL OF GUILTY PLEA

22. Defendant agrees that if, after entering a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant seeks to withdraw and succeeds in withdrawing defendant's guilty plea on any basis other than a claim and finding that entry into this plea agreement was involuntary, then (a) the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement; and (b) should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result

of this agreement, then (i) any applicable statute of limitations will be tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action; and (ii) defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.

RESULT OF VACATUR, REVERSAL OR SET-ASIDE

23. Defendant agrees that if the count of conviction is vacated, reversed, or set aside, both the USAO and defendant will be released from all their obligations under this agreement.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

24. This agreement is effective upon signature and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney.

BREACH OF AGREEMENT

25. Defendant agrees that if defendant, at any time after the signature of this agreement and execution of all required certifications by defendant, defendant's counsel, and an Assistant United States Attorney, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. All of defendant's obligations are material, a single breach of this agreement is sufficient for the USAO to declare a breach, and defendant shall not be deemed to have cured a breach without the express agreement of the USAO in writing. If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, then: (a) if defendant has previously

entered a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement, defendant will not be able to withdraw the guilty plea, and (b) the USAO will be relieved of all its obligations under this agreement.

- 26. Following the Court's finding of a knowing breach of this agreement by defendant, should the USAO choose to pursue any charge that was either dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then:
- a. Defendant agrees that any applicable statute of limitations is tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the filing commencing any such action.
- b. Defendant waives and gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of pre-indictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such action, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing this agreement.
- c. Defendant agrees that: (i) any statements made by defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing (if such a hearing occurred prior to the breach); (ii) the agreed-to Factual Basis statement in this agreement; and (iii) any evidence derived from such statements, shall be admissible against defendant in any such action against defendant, and defendant waives and gives up any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or any other federal rule, that the statements or any evidence derived from the statements should be suppressed or are inadmissible.

COURT AND UNITED STATES PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICE NOT PARTIES

- 27. Defendant understands that the Court and the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office are not parties to this agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties' agreements to facts or sentencing factors.
- 28. Defendant understands that both defendant and the USAO are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and determination of sentence, and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the Court's Sentencing Guidelines calculations and the sentence it chooses to impose are not error, although each party agrees to maintain its view that the calculations in paragraph 14 are consistent with the facts of this case. This paragraph permits both the USAO and defendant to submit full and complete factual information to the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office and the Court, even if that factual information may be viewed as inconsistent with the Factual Basis or Sentencing Factors agreed to in this agreement.
- 29. Defendant understands that even if the Court ignores any sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from those agreed to, and/or imposes any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw defendant's guilty plea, and defendant will remain bound to fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. Defendant

understands that no one -- not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney, or the Court -- can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within the statutory maximum.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

30. Defendant understands that, except as set forth herein, there are no promises, understandings, or agreements between the USAO and defendant or defendant's attorney, and that no additional promise, understanding, or agreement may be entered into unless in a writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

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1 PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING 2 The parties agree that this agreement will be considered 31. 3 part of the record of defendant's quilty plea hearing as if the 4 entire agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding. AGREED AND ACCEPTED 5 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 6 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF 7 CALIFORNIA 8 E. MARTIN ESTRADA United States Attorney 9 Date 10/26/2023 Date 10/26/2023 10 FRANCES S. LEWIS 11 SURFA M. BAHADUE Assistant United States Attorneys 12 13 STEVE/LEE DOMINGUEZ 14 Defendant 15 16 KATE MORRIS IJEOMA EKE 17 Deputy Federal Public Defenders 18 Attorneys for Defendant STEVE LEE DOMINGUEZ 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT

I have read this agreement in its entirety. I have had enough time to review and consider this agreement, and I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. I have discussed the evidence with my attorney, and my attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to me other than those contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this agreement. I am satisfied with the representation of my attorney in this matter, and I am pleading guilty because I am guilty of the charge and wish to take advantage of the promises set forth in this agreement, and not for any other

10 /25 /2023

reason.

STEVE LEE DOMINGUEZ

Defendant

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CERTIFICATION OF DEFENDANT'S ATTORNEY

I am STEVE LEE DOMINGUEZ's attorney. I have carefully and thoroughly discussed every part of this agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible pretrial motions that might be filed, of possible defenses that might be asserted either prior to or at trial, of the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), of relevant Sentencing Guidelines provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. To my knowledge: no promises, inducements, or representations of any kind have been made to my client other than those contained in this agreement; no one has threatened or forced my client in any way to enter into this agreement; my client's decision to enter into this agreement is an informed and voluntary one; and the Factual Basis set forth in this agreement is sufficient to support my client's entry of a guilty plea pursuant to this agreement.

KATE MORRI

10/26/2023

IJEOMA EKE
Deputy Federal Public Defenders

Attorneys for Defendant STEVE LEE DOMINGUEZ